THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • THURSDAY • APRIL 20, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 28 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW

newindianexpress.com

facebook.com/thenewindianxpress twitter.com/newindianxpress

instagram.com/newindianexpress

INDIA SURPASSES CHINA TO BECOME WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS NATION

India's population has reached 142.86 crore, against China's 142.57 crore, the UN's world population dashboard showed on Wednesday

POPULATION WILL GROW FOR NEXT 30 YRS: U.N.

UN projections estimate that India's population will grow for the next three decades after which it will begin declining. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)'s State of the World Population Report 2023, about 25% of India's population is in the age group of 0-14 years, 18% in 10-19 years, 26% in the age bracket of 10-24 years, 68% in 15-64 yrs, and 7% above 65 yrs

COUNTRY TO HAVE 192 MN ELDERLY BY 2030

- The population demographics of India vary from state to state. Kerala and Punjab have an ageing population while Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have a young population. According to estimates by the UNFPA, the size of elderly population in the country will nearly double to touch 192 million by 2030, largely in southern and western states | **P7**

166.8 crore

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF INDIA IN 2050, AGAINST CHINA'S 131 CR, ACCORDING TO U.N.

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Bill on Uniform Civil Code to be July flashpoint

Amit Shah keen on getting it ready by then

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

Rituraj Awasthi

KT Sankaran

WITH Lok Sabha elections just a year away, the Centre seems to be moving in the direction of implementing its long-time poll promise of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the country.

According to sources, at a high-level meeting chaired by Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday, he expressed his keenness to introduce the bill in the Monsoon session of Parliament in July.

The meeting was attended by Union law minister Kiren Rijiju, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, top officials from various departments, BJP president J P Nadda, RSS joint general secretary Arun Kumar among others. According to sources, Shah said that the bill should be ready by July.

With Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Chhattisgarh scheduled for the second half of this year, the party may be banking on the UCC card. Shah said last year that the BJP is committed to implementing a UCC after discussions and by following all democratic processes.

Last month, Mehta told the Supreme Court that the Centre is in favour of a UCC, adding its enacting is within the domain of Parliament and not courts.

Rijiju had earlier told Parliament that the 22nd Law Commission will examine various issues pertaining to the UCC and make recommendations.

22nd Law Commission

The 22nd Law Commission is headed by former Karnataka High Court chief justice Rituraj Awasthi, who headed a bench that heard in the hijab ban case. Its member Justice K T Sankaran had coined the love jihad phrase for the first time in 2009 during his tenure in Kerala HC

The 21st Law Commission in its working paper said that a UCC is "neither necessary nor desirable at this stage". It observed that "Difference does not always imply discrimination in a robust democracy. So a unified nation does not necessarily need to have uniformity."

Speaking to this newspaper, a former member of the 21st Law Commission said, "Our commission took two-and-a-half years to prepare a working paper on UCC. It needs elaborate consultation with all stakeholders."

The member also pointed out that the Muslim personal laws will have to be codified before embarking on drafting laws for the UCC.

No data to show same-sex marriage is an urban elitist concept, says CJI

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE state can't discriminate against an individual on the basis of sexual characteristic over which the person has no control, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday. Rejecting the Centre's stand that same-sex marriage is an urban elitist concept, the court said that there is no government data to support it.

"It may be more urban in its manifestations because more people in urban areas are coming out of the closet. No data is coming out to indicate this is urban," said Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by the CJI was hearing a batch of petitions seeking legal sanction for same-sex marriage.

At the start of the second day's hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta filed a fresh affidavit urging the bench to make all states and Union Territories parties to the proceedings as their right to legislate will be affected by SC's decision.

The court was told that the Centre issued a letter on April 18, the day the SC started hearing arguments, to all states inviting their views.

However, the bench was in no mood to accede to the request. "So you've told them now that the matter is going on? That's excellent! So now it's not that the states are unaware. You've informed them. If somebody has to say something they'll," said the CJI.

Terming the entire exercise of 'consulting the states' as unnecessary, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for one of the petitioners, said the top court had issued notice in the pleas five months ago.

Senior advocate A M Singhvi questioned the exclusion of the LGBTQ class from the Special Marriage Act. "Marriage is vital and important because of the sense of security it provides to couples. Why should there be exclusion of one set of couples?" he asked.

daCunha/AB/873

Air India

UNIONS REJECT NEW PAY STRUCTURE, THREATEN STIR

Indian Commercial Pilots Association and Indian Pilots Guild warned the company's new salary structure will lead to 'industrial unrest'

INTERVIEW

'MY THINKING SAME AS THAT OF CONGRESS'

Former CM Jagadish Shettar, who switched from BJP to Congress recently, said his secular image and thoughts would make it easy for him to adapt with the Congress ideology. "My thinking is to do good for everyone, and the same is with the Congress," he said, adding that his ties with RSS leaders would continue. **P4**

BJP to begin campaign blitzkrieg with its stars

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

THE ruling BJP will soon launch a 'carpet bombing-like' campaign in the state to turn the tide in its favour in the May 10 Assembly elections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, prominent union ministers and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states, and other senior leaders of the party will address rallies across the state.

Thursday is the last date for filing of nomination papers. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be in the state on April 21 and 22. He will campaign for BJP candidates in Devanahalli and Davanagere. The saffron party, which has set a target of winning at least 140 seats, is largely depending on its national leaders, especially Modi, Shah and UP CM Yogi Adityanath.

According to a senior leader, 94 national leaders of the party will campaign in all 224 Assembly constituencies. BJP state secretary N Ravi Kumar, who is one of the star campaigners, told The New Indian Express that at least 1,000 roadshows, rallies and other events will be held across the state.

"We have a combination of national and state leaders ready to address rallies in different regions of the state. We hope Modi will take part in at least 20 rallies and other events," he said.

In the first 10 days, the leaders will cover 150 constituencies and before the last date for campaigning, they will cover the entire state, Ravi Kumar said.

Meanwhile, a senior BJP leader said the party seems to be lagging behind in some constituencies. But that will change once the star campaigners hit the streets.

According to BJP leaders, former DyCM Laxman Savadi and former CM Jagadish Shettar would have damaged the BJP's prospects if they had contested as independents. But that will not happen now as they have joined the Congress party.

The BJP on Wednesday released a list of 40 star campaigners, including Prime Minister Modi, Union ministers Shah, Pralhad Joshi, Mansukh Mandaviya, and Nirmala Sitharaman. **P4**

Shettar, Kanhaiya on Congress campaign trail

BENGALURU: The Congress on Wednesday released its list of 40 star campaigners for the Assembly polls, including former CM Jagadish Shettar, who joined the Congress recently, and former student leader of JNU, Kanhaiya Kumar. Sachin Pilot, who in the past has campaigned in Karnataka, has been dropped. **P4**

BJP's Ayanur Manjunath jumps ship to join JDS

SHIVAMOGGA/CHITRADURGA: Senior BJP leader Ayanur Manjunath joined JDS, and will file his nomination papers for Shivamogga seat on Thursday. He said he will quit as MLC and also the saffron party soon. Former CM H D Kumaraswamy welcomed Manjunath into the JDS fold and offered him the B-form. **P4**

EXPRESS READ

School days in Karnataka set to decrease 26 days

BENGALURU: As per guidelines by the Department of School Education for Academic Year 2023-24, school days for children in state syllabus schools will be reduced by 26 days. The total number of school days will be 244, against last year's 270. **P5**

Apple CEO calls on PM, says will invest more

NEW DELHI: Apple CEO Tim Cook on Wednesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the iPhone maker looks invest more in India. "... we're committed to growing and investing across the country," Cook tweeted with a picture of him shaking hands with PM Modi.

Unwell, Nepal President airlifted to India

KATHMANDU: Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel (78) was airlifted to India for treatment on Wednesday, a day after he was admitted to a hospital here after he complained of shortness of breath, his press aide said.

UP IN FLAMES

A video grab shows a massive fire which engulfed a shop selling firecrackers at Hebbal Industrial Area in Mysuru on Wednesday. While the entire shop was damaged in the blaze, no injury was reported | EXPRESS | **P3**

Russia plans to 'Make in India' to resolve payment problem

SHAHID FARIDI @ New Delhi

INDIA and Russia have devised a novel solution to the payment problem they faced after the Western sanctions against the latter following the Ukraine invasion. The workaround is to invest the bulk of Russian earnings from India in setting up industries in India to manufacture products that can be exported to the Russian Federation. India's oil imports from Russia increased four times over the last financial year to $46 billion as Russia replaced Iraq as India's top crude oil supplier last month. India is trying to get Russia to accept payments in rupee. Russia is against it, saying it has no use for such huge sums of Indian currency as its imports from India are only a fraction of what its exports to the country earn.

While talks are on for reviving the rupee-rouble trade, the two countries have quickly moved to implement their new understanding. Sources said Russia plans to spend much of its earnings from India to set up facilities in India that will export hundreds of items manufactured by its fully-owned companies or by joint ventures.

A large delegation of top Indian private defence manufacturers visited Russia last week to explore possibilities of tie-ups, and at least three Russian business delegations visited India over the last three weeks. They included senior Russian ministers and business leaders.

A 190-member business delegation representing 128 Russian companies visited India earlier this month. Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industries president Sergey Katyrin headed this group. The FICCI organised B2B meetings between visiting Russian business people and Indian industrialists. This was followed by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov's visit. Both sides are exploring cooperation in transport and machine building, chemicals, pharma, metallurgy and materials, digital technologies, energy, finance and trade.

CBI books Oxfam India over FCRA violation

AMIT MUKHERJEE @ New Delhi

FOLLOWING the Union home ministry's directive, the CBI has lodged an FIR against Oxfam India over violations under the Foreign Currency Regulation Act (FCRA).

The FIR has been registered against Oxfam India and its office bearers this week, for violations under Sections 37, 37 and 39 of the FCRA read with Sections 7,8, 12 (4) and 17. The CBI will be investigating the various alleged violations and its scope between 2013 and 2020. The MHA directive was after multiple agencies detected irregularities, violations and non-compliance by Oxfam.

In its letter to the CBI Director, MHA said: "Though Oxfam India's FCRA registration has ceased, it planned to circumvent FCRA by routing funds through other routes."

The letter further said if during the course of the investigation, violations of the other specific statutes, such as the Income Tax Act or the Prevention of Money Laundering Act surface, then the CBI may alert the competent authorities.

Oxfam India was registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010 for undertaking social activities. The registration certificate was valid up to December 31, 2021. According to sources, it transferred foreign funds to various entities while the amended rules prohibit such transfers.

SIKSHA 'O' ANUSANDHAN
SAAT-2023
Empowering students for a brighter future
APPROVAL & RECOGNITIONS
Approved by UGC & AICTE
Re-accredited by NAAC with A++ Grade
Accredited by NBA
Ranked in QS World Rankings 2023
NIRF INDIA RANKINGS 2022
16th Best in University Category
27th Best in Engineering Category
B.TECH PROGRAMMES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE
Computer Science & Engineering
Computer Science & Information Technology
Computer Science & Engineering (Cyber Security)
Computer Science & Engineering (Data Science)
Computer Science & Engineering (Internet of Things)
Computer Science & Engineering (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
To apply for admission through SAAT, Please visit : www.soa.ac.in